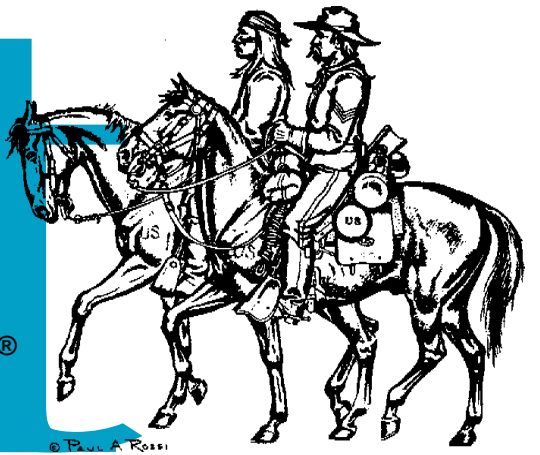




Mano a mano
See Page B3

The Fort Huachuca Scout



Vol. 46, NO. 41 Published in the interest of Fort Huachuca personnel and their families October 12, 2000

Scout reports

e-mail:
thescout@huachuca-emh1.army.mil
website:
huachuca-www.army.mil/PAO/1Scout.htm

Federal jobs workshop

The Fort Huachuca Army Career and Alumni Program is offering a monthly Federal Jobs Workshop on Friday.

The workshop covers how to find out about federal job vacancies, how to apply, what forms to use, how selections are made, federal pay scales, veterans preference, and the types of civil service appointments. The Resumix scannable resume used to apply for jobs at Fort Huachuca will be explained in detail.

Workshops are held in the ACAP Center, Building 22420 (next to the Military Clothing Sales) in the Old Post area. No reservation is necessary and the public is invited. For more information, call Thom Hapgood at 533-7314.

CYO kickoff picnic

The Catholic Youth Organization will host its kickoff picnic 3-5 p.m. Sunday at the large grassy field next to Myer Elementary School. CYO is for youth ages 14 and older. For information, call Veronica Price at 458-2230 or 533-2366.

Craft vendors needed

Vendors are being sought for Col. Johnston Elementary School's Christmas Craft Bazaar fund-raiser Nov. 4 at Johnston's school cafeteria.

The bazaar is searching for vendors of homemade crafts — no commercial or food item vendors please. Vendors may purchase a six-foot table for \$10. Johnston will not charge any percentage of the vendor's sales at the bazaar.

Application forms/contracts may be picked up at Johnston Elementary School outside the office, and deadline for registration/paying of fees is Monday. For more information, call 459-4297 or 458-0713.

Traffic changes to affect many drivers

By Stan Williamson
Scout Staff

Drivers will be unable to make a left turn onto, or off of, Hatfield Street between Irwin Street and Arizona Street starting Oct. 28.

The decision to impose the left turn restrictions on Hatfield from Irwin to Arizona is based on safety statistics over a 12-month period showing a large number of vehicle accidents in this area.

According to Bruce Heran, installation safety officer, there were 123 vehicle accidents on post reported to the Military Police during the one-year period ending this past September. Of these accidents, 43 occurred on Hatfield Street, with the heaviest concentration, 28, taking place at the intersection of Hatfield and Rucker Streets.

The number of accidents on Hatfield has increased dramatically, causing commanders and safety officials to examine the causes. Several things were apparent during the review.

There is an increase in the number of vehicle drivers using Hatfield to enter and exit the installation, and most of the fort's primary activities (Military Intelligence School, Electronic Proving Ground, Joint Interoperability Test Command, Army Signal Command, 11th Signal Brigade, Commissary, Post Exchange, etc.) are located on or close to this major traffic artery.

"The volume of traffic, curves along this section of Hatfield, narrowness of the street, and amount of traffic turning on and off Hatfield are a dangerous combination," said Lt. Col. Peter Mroczkiewicz,

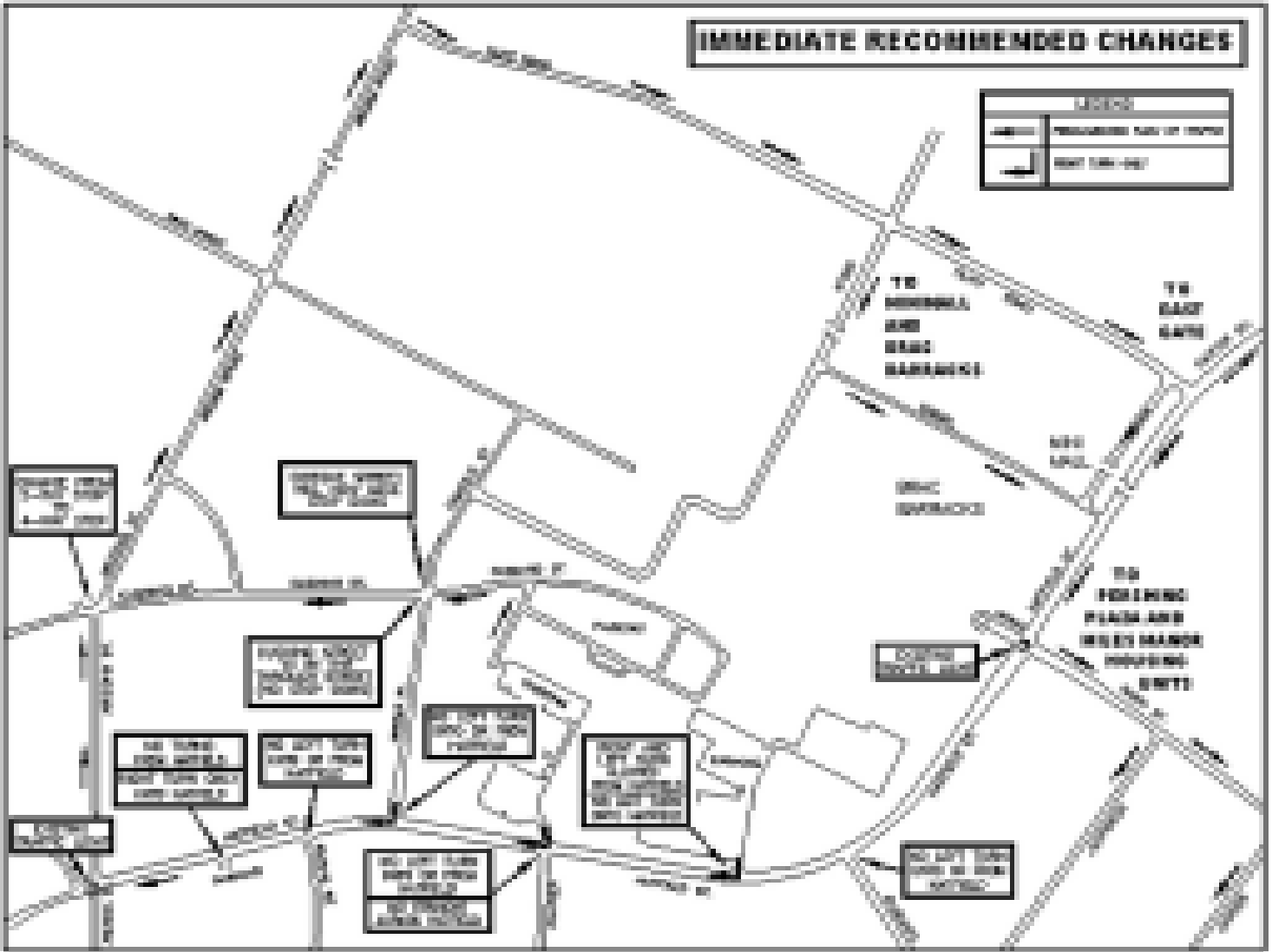
director of public safety.

With the higher number of vehicles on the road during the morning noon and evening "rush hours," it has become increasingly difficult and dangerous for drivers to make left turns onto or off of Hatfield.

"The safety of the soldiers and civilians living and working on Fort Huachuca is foremost in everything we do in the Directorate of Public Safety," Mroczkiewicz said.

"On Hatfield, between Arizona and Irwin, we are fortunate and thankful that no one has been killed or seriously injured," said Col. Michael W. Boardman, garrison commander, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca.

See Traffic, Page 7



The Scout's Chaplain

Fort offers variety of religious services

Protestant
Sunday Services
8 a.m. Episcopal, Main Post Chapel
8 a.m. Protestant, Kino Chapel
9:30 a.m. Gospel, Kino Chapel
9:30 a.m. Protestant, MI Village
11 a.m. Protestant, Main Post Chapel
11 a.m. Lutheran, MI Village
1:30 p.m. Hispanic, Main Post Chapel

Catholic
Weekday Mass
11:30 a.m. Daily Mass, Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Saturday Mass
5 p.m. Mass (Vigil), Main Post Chapel
Sunday Mass
8 a.m. MI Village
9:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
11:30 a.m. Kino Chapel

Jewish
7 p.m. 1st & 3rd Fridays, Main Post Chapel

Eastern Orthodox
10 a.m. 2nd Saturday, Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Muslim
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Daily Prayer
Main Post Chapel, Room 24

Religious Education
Catholic CCD
10:45-11:45 a.m. Sundays
Catholic Sacramental
See DRE (533-4598)
Protestant Sunday School
9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays, Main Post Chapel
Gospel Sunday School
8-9 a.m. Murr Community Center
Episcopal Children's Church
8-9 a.m. Main Post Chapel
Episcopal Confirmation Class
9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays

Bible Studies
See DRE (533-4598)

Youth Programs
Protestant Jr. & High School Student Ministries
6 p.m. Wednesdays, Main Post Chapel, 459-8339
Catholic Life Teen
For schedule, call 803-1750

Children's Programs
Pioneer Clubs (1st-6th Grade)
6:30 p.m. Mondays, Main Post Chapel, 533-4598

Navy celebrates 225th birthday

By Gen. Charles T. “Tony” Robertson, Commander U.S. Transportation Command, Air Mobility Command
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — On Oct. 13, the U.S. Navy celebrates its 225th birthday.
The U.S. Navy is a magnificent organization with a history which traces its origins and accomplishments back to the Continental Navy, established during the war of independence. Since 1775, the great men and women of the U.S. Navy have woven a rich record of service to thenation — and established the Navy as the world’s premier maritime force.
This year also marks the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of America’s entry into the Korean War. As is the case for every major war effort, the Navy played a critical role in ensuring the nation’s victory in Korea. And as in every war this country has fought, before or since, the United States could not have prevailed without the Navy.
From the initial stages of the Korean war, the Navy was fully engaged. Navy destroyers covered the evacuation of Americans from Seoul following the initial invasion by the North Koreans; Navy warships provided coastal fires to stymie the attacking North Koreans; and Navy minesweepers cleared thickly mined harbors in Korea’s coastal waters.
The Military Sea Transportation Service (later named the Military Sealift Command) carried millions of tons of ammunition, cargo, and fuel throughout the conflict, in addition to delivering thousands of troops to the front.
Clearly, the diverse and difficult missions of the Navy throughout the Korean War were critical to the United States’ success in pushing the North Koreans back across the 38th parallel—and securing the freedom of South Korean allies.
The sailors of USTRANSCOM and MSC represent the very best the world has to offer with the same courage and commitment to freedom their predecessors demonstrated during the Korean War.
Members of the U.S. Navy should stand proud in their accomplishments, and be assured that the U.S. Transportation Command looks to them as the world’s global maritime standard.

Commentary

An upheaval we’ll all deal with sometime

By Sgt. Cullen James Scout Staff
I intended this to be simply a farewell. I’m heading off to Fort Polk, La., and this is my last issue of The Scout. This is a farewell, but I couldn’t help noticing something that sparked my interest and I find myself wanting to write about.
As a military “brat,” and current military member, I’m used to moving. Every four years or so for as long as I can remember, I’ve been moving. It’s gets into your psyche. After a while you get to a point where you want to move every so often. It’s a drive.
However, I’m a pretty routine guy. When I get into my workplace, I like to have a set pattern to doing things. I like my coffee a certain way, at a certain time. I find that when you set pattern, you can do things more efficiently — after a period of trial and error. Every once in a while changes occur that alter your routine. Well, that’s no biggie. Just be flexible and find a new routine.
This is the same with moving. When you get to a new place, you establish comfort zones and routines to help you get on with day to day life. But when you move,

your entire routine is thrown out of whack.
Adults tend to take most of these changes in stride. We know that things change and we’ve learned to adapt with them. But what’s making me point this out is my 17-month-old daughter. She isn’t yet accustomed to change and she’s letting everyone know about it. The littlest things are setting her off on fussing and crying binges that are nearly inconsolable.
I wish I could do more to explain to her what was happening and why, but she doesn’t want to listen. Perhaps if I could figure out how in her limited vocabulary to use the proper inflection of “A-da,” “Ma-ma,” “dog,” or “cat” I could explain it better.
Her stress has made me take a look at my own. Of course, if I could throw barely unstoppable crying fits and get away with it, I’d probably be a happier person. But I have to try and find ways to merely accept that I’m once again throwing my family’s lives upside down. It’s hard, but we’ll get used to it.
These events make me think about how reluctant some people are to change. Maybe nothing as drastic as a move, perhaps just changing where you shop for gro-

ceries — some people don’t seem to be able to deal with these changes.
I’m not particularly fond of change in many cases. I like a particular brand of soda, I like to rent movies from a particular store, and I like to drive a particular way to work. However, those are all things that may change based on outside influences.
So I’m trying to take a lesson from my daughter, and I want to pass it along. When life throws you a curve ball and you don’t think you can handle the change, find yourself your own kind of teething ring or go outside and forget about things for a while and play. It works for her.
On a final note, I’d like to thank everyone I’ve dealt with here at Fort Huachuca during my stay. This has been a memorable assignment, and I’ve worked with some great people.
The next time you think you have it bad or think how dull a place this is, remember that it could be worse. Not every Army installation is as placid, laid-back or as beautiful as here. Change awaits us all. How do you face it?

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Command Staff
Publisher/Commanding General.....MG John D. Thomas, Jr.
Garrison Commander.....COL Michael Boardman
Public Affairs Officer.....MAJ Daniel T. Williams
Command Information ChiefStan Williamson
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Editorial Staff
Managing EditorAngela Moncur
News EditorSGT Cullen James

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Civilian pay increases with health-premium conversion

Army News Service release

WASHINGTON — Many Army civilian employees will see an increase in their take-home pay next month as health-insurance premiums are paid for the first time with pre-tax dollars.

The increase will be a result of the Federal Employees Health Benefits premium conversion program. In the past, agencies deducted health premiums after federal income taxes were paid.

Beginning with the first full pay period in October, though, premium allotments will be taken out before taxes.

The premium allotments will not be subject to income tax, Medicare or Social Security taxes; so less tax will be withheld and paychecks will be larger.

The average increase in pay will be about \$434 per year (or \$16.69 for a two-week pay period), according

to Office of Personnel Management officials. They explain, however, that actual increases will depend upon the cost of individual health insurance plans and the employee's tax bracket.

In addition, the increase in pay may be short-lived, an OPM official said, as the cost of health insurance is expected to increase significantly in January.

In fact, the FEHB premium conversion program was devised as part of a "balancing act" to help offset the rising cost of health benefits, according to OPM Director Janice R. Lachance.

In the coming year, premiums for Health Maintenance Organizations will increase an average 8.5 percent, while fee-for-service plans will see an average increase of 10.9 percent, OPM officials said.

"We chose to raise premiums across the program, rather than reduce benefits," Lachance said. "Keeping

health care affordable, while maintaining a comprehensive benefits package, is a delicate balancing act."

Participating in the premium conversion program will be automatic for eligible employees. No action need be taken unless an employee wants to opt out of the conversion program. Then a waiver must be submitted to the local personnel office.

OPM officials said the option not to participate in the program is there because the conversion will reduce Social Security payments slightly upon retirement. For the vast majority of employees, though, the immediate tax benefits will be several times greater than the potential amount lost later in Social Security payments, officials said.

(Editor's note: Beau Whittington, assistant editor of the *Stripe* newspaper at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, was a significant contributor to this article.)

National Fire Prevention Week Smoke detectors save lives

Fire Department release

Smoke detectors aren't new. The technology has been around since the 1960s.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 93 percent of homes in the United States have at least one smoke detector.

They save so many lives that most states have laws requiring them in residential dwellings. So why is there so much attention being given to smoke detectors?

Although most homes are equipped with at least one detector, almost half of all home fires and 60 percent of fire deaths occur in the share of homes with no alarms.

This means thousands of people die each year in homes where smoke detectors aren't present.

Tragically, the importance of installing and maintaining smoke detectors is not fully realized.

Study's also show; there are now more homes with smoke detectors that don't work than homes without detectors at all. These poorly maintained units provide a false sense of security among occupants.

Working smoke detectors save lives. Having a smoke detector cuts your chance of dying in half if you have a fire at home.

tant to keep detectors out of possible "dead air" spaces.

Installing detectors near a window or door or fireplace is not recommended. In rooms with vaulted ceilings, mount the unit at or near the ceiling's highest point.

Remember maintenance is a must and it's easy.

— Test your smoke detector by testing it once a month by pushing the test button and listening for the alarm.

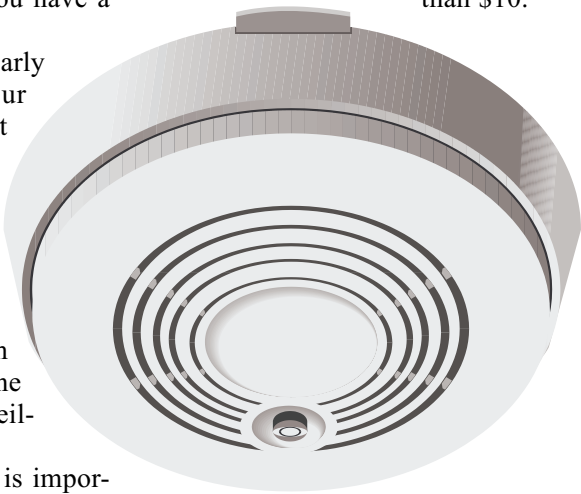
— Replace batteries, at least once a year or when the alarm chirps, alerting you that the battery is low. Make sure no one disables your detector by borrowing the batteries for other uses.

— Cleaning, just as you clean your home. Cobwebs and dust usually can be removed with a vacuum cleaner attachment.

When dealing with a nuisance alarm, first clean the detector. If the problem still persists replace the battery.

Evaluate where your detectors are placed, cooking vapors and steam can set off the alarm if it is placed near the kitchen or bathroom.

If the nuisance alarms continue, install a new smoke detector. A battery operated smoke detector retails for less than \$10.



By properly placing, regularly testing and maintaining your alarms, you can ensure that they are in fact working and will alert you if a fire breaks out.

Since smoke and deadly gases rise, smoke detectors should be placed on the ceiling at least four inches from the nearest wall, or high on the wall four inches from the ceiling.

This four-inch minimum is impor-

Fort uses more water in September

*By Tanja M. Linton
Media Relations Officer*

The water pumpage for September is 50,864,000 gallons or 156 acre feet and is equivalent to 1.7 millions gallons per day.

The September 2000 pumpage is 5.7 percent more than that pumped in September 1999 (147 acre feet), however, it is 30.9 percent less than the 18-year (1982-1999) September average (226 acre feet).

Total water pumped year to date (January-September 2000; 1,446 acre feet) is 3.3 percent less than that pumped in 1999 (1,496 acre feet).

Treated effluent reuse for September was 50.4 acre feet. This is water that did not have to be pumped from the groundwater aquifer (a water and energy savings), to irrigate the Mountain View golf course, Chaffee Parade Field and MI Village.

Kudos Korner

MEDDAC honors soldiers

MEDDAC recognized Sgt. Enrique Estrada as October's Noncommissioned Officer of the Month. Estrada is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Material Branch of Logistics Division at Raymond W. Bliss Health Center. Estrada, a medical supply sergeant (76J), is preparing to PCS to

Baumholder, Germany.

MEDDAC's October Soldier of the Month is Spc. Roland Vasquez, a physical therapy assistant (91BN9). Currently he is finishing his undergraduate degree with a goal of acceptance at Baylor University where he will complete his master's degree in physical therapy.

Commissary cooks up magic with kids

DeCA release

Theatrically attired magicians will perform in selected commissaries using receipt/magic trick cards with plenty of slight of hand fun during the third annual "Cook up a Little Magic with your Kids!"

These magicians will entertain and educate shoppers with quick and easy meal solutions. The magicians will disseminate receipt/magic trick cards to cus-

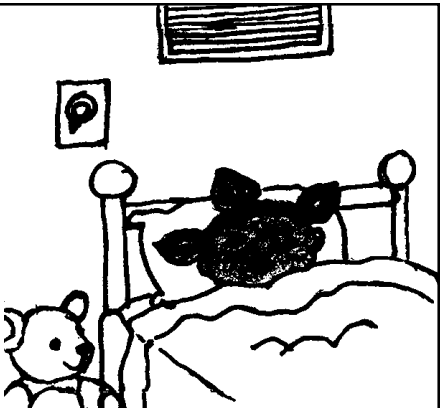
tomers. Coupons will add to the savings so be on the lookout.

This year's promotion offers even greater savings for shoppers centered on a "magic" theme, creating in-store excitement during DeCA's 9th Anniversary Sale.

Appearance at the Fort Huachuca Commissary will be 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Be Energy Smart at Fort Huachuca!

Turn down the thermostat at night and use more blankets.



Financial disclosure forms due Tuesday

By David L. Miller

Staff Judge Advocate's Office

The end of the year means many different things to many different people. To most people, it means the holiday season. To long-time government employees, it means the "use or lose leave" season.

To your ethics counselor, it's the season to file the Office of Government Ethics Form 450 or affectionately known as the Government Ethics Financial Disclosure Form. What is the purpose of the OGE Form 450, and why is the Government concerned about a government employee's personal financial affairs?

What is the purpose?

The OGE Form 450 helps government employees to seek out and correct conflict of interest problems. A conflict of interest problem occurs when a government employee makes an official decision affecting a company in which the employee has a personal financial interest.

For instance, if a government employee in charge of purchasing computer equipment owns 100 shares of Acme Computer, he has a conflict of interest when he decides whether to purchase Acme Computers for the government.

By listing those 100 shares of stock on his OGE Form 450, the employee notifies

his supervisor that he may have an actual or potential conflict of interest when making decisions affecting that company.

Who should file?

The Joint Ethics Regulation, Department of Defense Directive 5500.7-R, Section 7-300 requires everyone below the rank of general officer or senior executive service (general officers and SES file an SF 278) who has discretion on actions that might impact contractors to file.

This includes more than just contracting officers; it also includes technical experts and soldiers who are involved with the government procurement process. This may include drafting or reviewing specifications, preparing statements of work, testing or evaluating products, or any other acquisition related functions.

Who decides who files?

The employee's immediate supervisor decides whether the employee must file an OGE Form 450. An ethics counselor can help the supervisor, but the supervisor must make the final call. That is because the supervisor best knows the employee's responsibilities.

How does the process work?

Once the supervisor identifies who

must file an OGE Form 450, he or she will select a point of contact for the organization. The point of contact provides a list of OGE Form 450 filers to the Administrative Law Division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate by Oct. 2.

During the next few days, all OGE Form 450 filers must complete, sign, and submit their OGE Form 450 to their supervisors.

Each filer must be sure to include the date of his or her last ethics training at the top of the OGE Form 450. The OGE Form 450 can be downloaded at <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/usag/sja/adlaw/>.

Supervisors must review all completed OGE Form 450 for conflicts of interest. Supervisors play a key role in this process because they understand their employees' responsibilities and can best identify conflict of interest problems for the Ethics Counselor to review.

If a supervisor identifies a conflict of interest, he or she should notify the Command Ethics Counselor at Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. The Command Ethics Counselor will recommend solutions to resolve the problem. If a conflict of interest cannot be resolved, the supervisor will note this in the "comments" box of the OGE Form 450.

Supervisors must review, sign and forward all OGE Form 450s to the Staff Judge Advocate's Office by Tuesday. The final reviewing official, Tom King, Staff Judge Advocate ethics counselor, will review all OGE Form 450s and verify that they are in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Mistakes to avoid.

Common mistakes include: failure to list a spouse's non-government employment, failure to list mutual funds, listing a stock broker account, without listing the actual stocks, and listing a mutual fund family without identifying the particular fund.

By reading the instructions carefully, OGE Form 450 filers can prevent mistakes and simplify the process.

If your supervisor tells you to file an OGE Form 450, remember that this is a requirement of Government service. Failure to file the form may lead to disciplinary action or even removal from the Army or Federal Service.

Do not forget, supervisors must forward all completed OGE Form 450s to the Staff Judge Advocates Office, Administrative Law Division by Tuesday.

If you have any questions, call David L. Miller at 533-5712.

TRICARE introduces Debt Collection Assistance Officer program

TRICARE release

This summer, the position of Debt Collection Assistance Officer was established at all Lead Agent offices and military treatment facilities, worldwide, to help beneficiaries understand and get assistance with debt collection problems.

If a beneficiary receives a notice from a collection agency or a negative credit report because of a medical or dental bill, that person should call Henry C. Williams, Fort Huachuca's primary point of contact for the DCAO program, at 533-1204.

The beneficiary must bring or submit documentation associated with a collection action or adverse credit rat-

ing to the DCAO. This includes debt collection letters, TRICARE explanation of benefits, and medical/dental bills from providers.

The more information one can provide, the faster it will be to determine the cause of the problem. The DCAO will research the claim with the appropriate claims processor or other agency points of contact and provide a written resolution to the collection problem. The collection agency will be notified by the DCAO that action is being taken to resolve the issue.

The DCAO cannot provide legal advice or fix a credit rating, but can help people through the debt collection process by providing documentation for use with the col-

lection or credit reporting agency in explaining the circumstances relating to the debt.

Other resources are in place at Lead Agent offices and military treatment facilities to help beneficiaries who are having problems with TRICARE claims, but have not been sent to collection agencies or who have questions about the TRICARE program.

These resources include Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinators, formerly known as Health Benefits Advisors, who can assist you with your concerns. Williams is also the point of contact for the BCAC program.

For more information, call 533-1204.

Run, fun walk honors Native Americans

EO release

A 10K Run and a 3-mile Fun Walk are scheduled for Nov. 18, in honor of the Annual Native American Indian Heritage observance.

Sponsored by the Military Equal Opportunity office and the 112th Military Intelligence Brigade, the run and fun run will start at 8 a.m. on Chaffee Parade field.

This event will be open to the general public, Fort Huachuca personnel and family members.

Military police will provide traffic control in and around Chaffee Parade Field starting at 7 a.m. on the day of the run and fun walk.

For information call the Military EO office, Master Sgt. Clarence E. Hurley, or Sgt. 1st Class Joseph L. Quesnell, at 533-5305.

D-M hosts Arizona airshow

DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB, Ariz. — Davis-Monthan Air Force Base will host Aerospace & Arizona Days 2000 Nov. 4 and 5. Gates open at 8 a.m. both days.

The two-day airshow will feature military and civilian aerial demonstration and static display aircraft from across the United States. The world famous U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will be the feature demonstration team.

Approximately 600,000 visitors are expected to attend; this will be the largest two-day public event in Arizona.

The theme, "Saluting the Past, Recruiting the Future," pays tribute to area Korean War veterans, on the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, and also highlights today's military career opportunities for America's youth.

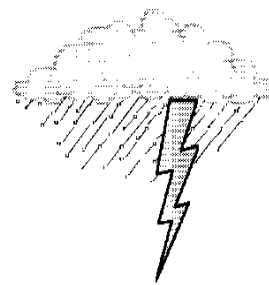
For more information about A&A Days, visit D-M's website at www.dm.af.mil/aa, or call the 355th Wing Public Affairs Office at 228-3204.



Wettie sez...

BE *Water Wise!*

Catch rain, dear!
Water harvesting
is a great way to
save water for
plants.



Be *Water Wise* and Energy Smart!

Fort Huachuca - 538-SAVE

Fort contributes \$62K to CFC in two weeks

By Capt. Mary Thompson
CFC Co-Coordinator

The 2000 Combined Federal Campaign is off and rolling again. At two weeks into the campaign, the post has already raised over \$62,000, and we're just getting warmed up.

With about 8,000 federal employees on post, this figure only represents 6 percent of the population. As of Oct. 6, 473 individuals had pledged a donation to the campaign. To find out how your individual unit contributions are adding up, contact you unit CFC representative.

Local, national and international charitable, emergency relief, and philanthropic organizations depend on voluntary contributions to achieve their objectives. Federal military and civilian personnel, as citizens and members of the community, share the responsibility for supporting these activities as well as enjoying their benefits.

Each military and civilian member of the federal government is given the opportunity, through on-the-job solicitation, to contribute voluntarily. They can choose to contribute through a one-time cash or check contribution or via payroll deduction.

Payroll deduction allows contributors the ability to donate a small amount each month to their favorite charity. The payment is deducted from the contributor's paycheck automatically each month with little impact to the individual or his/her budget. Deductions will not begin until January 2001.

If a contributor's financial situation should change during 2001, he/she can stop the allotment at any time, allowing federal employees flexibility.

Federal retirees and contractors are also invited to



participate. They can pick up information at the red, white and blue CFC displays located in the Fort Huachuca Main Post Exchange, Mini-Mall, Commissary and Main Chapel.

At the end of the campaign, the installation will recognize organizations according to their per capita contribution. This is determined by comparing the amount contributed to the number of personnel in an organization. Organizations will be divided into the following four groups:

Small:	0-50 individuals
Medium:	51-250 individuals
Large:	251-500 individuals
Extra Large:	501 and above

Awards will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place units. 1st place units will be presented a plaque, while 2nd and 3rd will receive a certificate. Additionally, organizations will be recognized for improving from last year's campaign in the following categories:

- Percentage of participation
- Average gift
- Contribution per capita

If an organization improves in two out of the three categories, it will be presented a Gold Certificate, while a Silver Certificate will be presented to any organization that improves in one out of the three categories. Recognition Awards will be presented at the Award Ceremony scheduled for early December.

The campaign runs through October 31st. See your unit representative or call 533-3245. You can also consult www.asc.army.mil/CFC/ for more information. Giving to CFC is easy. You choose the amount; you decide the means; you select the recipient.

Montgomery GI Bill goes unused by half who 'buy'

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Can you imagine turning down \$20,000 in education benefits?

Half of all service members eligible for Montgomery GI Bill benefits regularly do just that, according to Department of Veterans Affairs officials. Service members qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill benefits by contributing a nonrefundable \$100 per month throughout their first year of active service and successfully completing an active-duty "hitch."

Walking away from the benefit is a waste of great investment, VA officials said. At the current \$536 monthly benefit for 36 months of full-time schooling, the MGIB pays \$16 for every \$1 members must invest, Dennis Douglas, VA deputy director for education services told the American Forces Information Service.

Recent changes to the Montgomery GI Bill make it even better, said VA spokesman Terry Jemison. The program, he said, now pays the cost of some preparatory courses for college and graduate school entrance exams. Also, eligibility has been expanded to some officer training school graduates and surviving spouses. Proposals now under consideration before Congress would increase monthly payments, he added.

The education benefit provides many military men and women with education opportunities that otherwise might not be available, according to Jemison.

"We owe them, I believe," Douglass said. "It really is an opportunity for us to honor them for what they did for this nation."

The VA maintains a website offering detailed information at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Medicare, not TRICARE, is primary payer for kidney disease

TRICARE release

TRICARE beneficiaries with end stage renal disease (kidney failure) may be entitled to Medicare for primary coverage of their care expenses but need to check with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to determine their eligibility.

Individuals with permanent kidney failure are covered by special rules in the Medicare system and TRICARE beneficiaries with this condition must first contact the SSA to apply for Medicare benefits.

TRICARE claims relating to treatment for end stage renal disease from beneficiaries who have not applied for Medicare may be denied. Proof of Medicare payment must accompany claims. A denial will be described

in the beneficiary's Explanation of Benefits statement.

TRICARE beneficiaries who are accepted for Medicare coverage must contact the nearest military personnel office to have this information entered into the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Your TRICARE eligibility may be affected by your end stage renal disease status. You will need to contact the nearest military personnel office to determine whether you meet the conditions for continuation of your TRICARE eligibility.

TRICARE beneficiaries who are active duty family members and are accepted for Medicare coverage due to kidney failure may maintain dual eligibility. However, Medicare

will be the primary payer for their treatment, and TRICARE will be the secondary payer.

Permanent kidney failure can strike at any age. Affected individuals are eligible for Medicare Part A at any age if they receive a kidney transplant or maintenance dialysis and if they meet one of two other basic requirements. Either the individual must be insured or receiving benefits under the Social Security system or the Railroad Retirement Board or he or she must have worked sufficiently long in government to be qualified for Medicare according to Social Security Administration requirements. Concerned individuals are urged to contact their local SSA office for current, specific information on Medicare enrollment, eligibility and coverage.

The spouse and children of an individual with a Medicare-qualifying work record may also be eligible for coverage under Medicare Part A if they receive maintenance dialysis

or a kidney transplant. This is true even if no one else in the family is receiving Medicare.

How long Medicare covers beneficiaries with permanent kidney failure depends upon whether the individuals are receiving maintenance dialysis or a kidney transplant and upon several specific factors regarding those procedures. Once again, the local SSA office should be contacted for details.

Beneficiaries with kidney failure who lose TRICARE eligibility at the start of their Medicare coverage may be reinstated in TRICARE when their Medicare coverage ends due to successful treatment. TRICARE reinstatement depends upon the continuing ability to meet TRICARE eligibility requirements. Beneficiaries must obtain the details from the Social Security Administration and from their nearest military personnel office.

[Editor's note: The information contained in this story pertains only to TRICARE Prime, Extra, and Standard beneficiaries.]

Have we got news for you!

Check out *The Fort Huachuca Scout* on the Internet. Click on
<http://huachuca-www.army.mil/PAO/1Scout.htm>

Community Updates

Thanksgiving vouchers

The Fort Huachuca Thanksgiving Program is now accepting donations through unit representatives. Give generously to make a home a little bit more joyful this season.

CFC local charities

The Fort Huachuca and Cochise County Combined Federal Campaign will run through Oct. 31. Over 1600 charities are included this year, 256 are local. All federal employees, retirees and contractors are eligible to contribute.

To make a donation, see your unit representative or call 533-3245. For more information, click on www.asc.army.mil/CFC.

Flu vaccinations delayed

Flu season is coming, but at the present time, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center does not have any information about the arrival date for the vaccine.

The two factors that combined to create this delay were a slow-growing component of this year's vaccine formulation and the production problems at two of the four pharmaceutical companies that produce the flu vaccine.

As in the past, the vaccine will contain three different strains of flu virus. It is determined in early January of every year what strains they need to cover in the vaccine.

This year it will be New Caledonia, Moscow and Beijing. As soon as RWBAHC has any information as to when flu shots will be provided to beneficiaries, MEDDAC will send out messages, publish it in *The Scout* and on the local radio.

STC chapter forms

A local chapter of the Society for Technical Communication is forming. The STC is a professional association that advances the arts and sciences of technical communication.

Its 25,000 members include technical writers, editors, graphic designers, multimedia artists, web and Internet page information designers, translators and others whose work involves making technical information understandable and available to those who need it.

For information about attending meetings or becoming a member, click on <http://www.stc-va.org> and <http://stc.org> or call Debbie Escalante at 459-1354 or 439-4881.

Range closures

The following range areas are closed for training.

Today	AF, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Friday	AF, AM, AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Saturday	AQ, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Sunday	AY, T1, T1A, T2
Monday	AI, AK, AL, AR, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Tuesday	AI, AL, AM, AN, AR, AV, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Wednesday	AI, AL, AR, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2

Oct. 19	AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Oct. 20	AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Oct. 21	AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Oct. 22	AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2

For questions regarding range closures, call Range Control at 533-7095.

DOIM classes set

The Directorate of Information Management is sponsoring the following computer courses for the month of October: today, Advanced MS Excel; Monday, MS PowerPoint; Wednesday, Basic HTML; Oct. 19, Microsoft Outlook; Oct. 20, Microsoft Project; and Oct. 26, Microsoft Word.

These courses are free and are offered to all active duty/reserve military personnel and their spouses, civilians and contractors employed on Fort Huachuca. For more information, call the DOIM Training Center at 533-2868.

OCSC luncheon

The Fort Huachuca Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club October luncheon will be Wednesday at the LakeSide Activity Centre. There will be line-dancing lessons. RSVP by Friday at 458-7664. The "We Care" project for this month is St. Vincent De Paul. Bring non-perishable food items.

Six Rms Riv Vu opens

The Sierra Vista Illegitimate Theater Company in cooperation with the Sierra Vista Parks and Recreation Services announces the opening of the play *Six Rms Riv Vu* at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, also at 2 p.m. Sunday. All performances will be at the Ethel Berger Center.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$7 for seniors and children under 12. Tickets are available at Oscar Yrun Community Center and Globetrotter Travel Agency. They may also be purchased at the theater door 30 minutes before performances. For information, call 459-3943.

USAWOA meets

The U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (Arizona Silver Chapter) hosts its monthly meeting 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday at La Hacienda, Fort Huachuca.

Monthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month. Active, retired, Reserve, and National Guard military personnel are welcome, need not be a member to attend.

For information, call Chief Warrant Officer 2, Thomas Olson at 533-3077.

Major promotion board

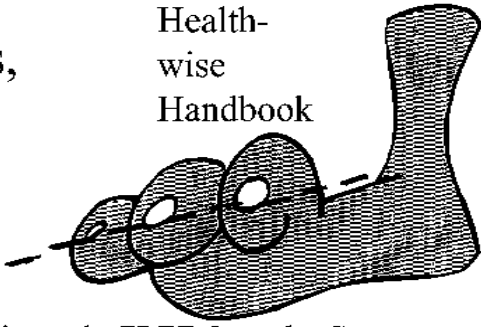
Department of the Army Promotion Selection Board is scheduled to convene on or about Oct. 24 to consider Judge Advocate General's Corps captains for promotion to major.

Officers eligible for consideration have the following active duty dates of rank: Above the Zone, Feb. 28, 1994 and ear-

Health-Wise Tip

- *Cut toenails straight across* (Prevent Hangnails, Look Cute in Sandals)

See Pg. 193 in the Health-wise Handbook



TRICARE PRIME: For more tips and a FREE Over-the-Counter pharmacy card attend the Healthwise/Put Prevention Into Practice Class any Thursday at 1300 at Murr Community Center. For more information contact Lillie Christian at 533-2246.

lier; Promotion Zone, March 1, 1994 through March 31, 1995; and Below the Zone, April 1, 1995 through Nov. 30, 1995.

In order to be eligible for consideration by the board, all mandatory or optional Officer Evaluation Reports must be received, error free, in the Evaluation Reports Branch, PERSCOM (TAPC-MSE-R) no later than Tuesday. Exceptions are governed by para 1-33d, AR 600-8-29. Only original evaluation reports will be processed. Machine reproduced or electronically transmitted copies will not be accepted.

For information, call Mrs. Velazquez at 533-3267.

AG closed

The Adjutant General will be closed on Oct. 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. for its quarterly Hail and Farewell Luncheon. For emergencies, call 533-2229.

Saturday testing

The Army Education Center will offer Saturday testing on Oct. 21 and Nov 18. See an Army Education counselor for an appointment slip no later than two days prior to the test date. For information, call Marilyn Copeland at 533-1701.

Field Sanitation Course

Preventive Medicine Wellness and Readiness Services will be offering a Field Sanitation Team Certification Course, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 23-27 the Education Center.

This is for active-duty soldiers only. These soldiers should have, at a minimum, six months time remaining before ETS/PCS from Fort Huachuca. Successful completion of this course will be worth eight promotion points.

To obtain seats for this class, forward or fax a memorandum no later than Oct. 18 through your chain of command to

PMWARS, ATTN: Cpl. Meador, 520-538-0886. This memorandum must have the soldier's Social Security Number, Military Occupational Specialty, and a number where the soldier can be reached. There is a limit of 30 per class. Personnel attending will be notified by the start of the class. For more information, call Cpl. Micheal Meador at 533-9013.

Veterans' benefits briefing

The Army Career and Alumni Program Center staff will sponsor Veterans' Affairs Benefits Briefings at the ACAP Center, Building 22420, 8 a.m.-noon Oct. 25, Nov. 8, and Dec. 1.

Representatives from the Phoenix VA Regional Office and the Tucson Veterans' Center will be present to provide information about all VA benefits. No reservations necessary. For information, call Thom Hapgood at 533-7314.

Greyt Greyhound Feast

The Greyhound Adoption League will host the Greyt Greyhound Feast, a celebration for the royal and regal Greyhound, Oct. 28 at the LakeSide Activity Centre.

The feast will include a social hour, traditional medieval dinner (silverware optional), medieval entertainment and a silent auction to benefit the league. All proceeds from this event will support the Greyhound rescue and adoption efforts of the Greyhound Adoption League, a not for profit organization.

For tickets or more information, call Dave Breen at 378-1763.

Harvest Fest planned

A Harvest Fest is planned for Oct. 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel Activity Room. This is a family event to celebrate what God has done for us this

See Updates, Page 7

Updates from Page 6

year and what He will do for us in the upcoming year.

Dress up in a favorite biblical character or animal and come enjoy games, crafts, and projects. Refreshment and fellowship will be provided. All costs are covered by the Main Post Chapel.

For information, call Kristine at 458-7986. Everyone is welcome.

Walk for health

The Thunder Mountain Trekkers will meet at 7 p.m. Oct. 31 at the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, 311 Wilcox, Sierra Vista.

Plans are underway for walking events at Coronado National Memorial on Nov. 18 and the Chaplains Giving Tree Event on Nov. 25 at Fort Huachuca.

Preparations are also being made for trail maintenance at the San Pedro Riparian Conservation Area and the annual Christmas walk in Naco, Ariz.

For information, call Wendy Breen at 378-1763.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help man the Giving Tree located in the Post Exchange lobby, Nov. 1-Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., daily. Volunteers are also needed to man the trees at the chapels before and after church services, and play Santa 11 a.m.-1 p.m. To volunteer, call Paula at 458-7664.

For more information, call Jo at 533-4748 or 533-5559, or Paula at 458-7664.

USAWOA golf tourney

The U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (Arizona Silver Chapter) hosts its first golf tournament fund raiser Nov. 4, at the Turquoise Valley Golf Course Naco, Ariz. Proceeds will go to the USAWOA college scholarship fund.

This event is a four-person team scramble. Fees are \$40 per person/\$160 per team (includes green fees, cart rental and lunch). Mulligans are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 (limit 3 per person).

Prizes awarded for 1st place, last place, longest drive, closest to pin, best dressed,

as well as various door prizes.

For information, call Warrant Officer 1 Dwayne Guidry at 538-6244 or 459-0630, or e-mail ddguidry@excelonline.com.

OCS Board set

The next installation OCS Interview Board is scheduled to convene Nov. 15-17 at Murr Community Center (Roadrunner Conference Room) starting at 8 a.m. daily. The deadline date for applications to be received by the Adjutant General Directorate is Nov. 6.

All applications must be in an original and three copies to the Personnel Operations Division, Building 41421 (ATTN: ATZS-AGO). Do not send applications through distribution. For information, call is Sgt. Newell at 533-1705 or 533-1706.

DELTA Forces recruits

A 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-DELTA (Airborne) Briefing Team from Fort Bragg, N.C. will discuss qualifications and application procedures to mili-

tary personnel interested in becoming DELTA Operators.

Specific units have been provided with an alphabetical roster which identifies mandatory attendance for those listed soldiers. Unit First Sergeants will coordinate to have their soldiers attend one of the NCOPD briefings. This briefing however, is also open to anyone who wishes to attend.

The briefing will be at the Murr Community Center (Buffalo Ballroom), 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily, Nov. 6 through Nov. 8. For information, call Sgt. Jeanette Newell at 533-1705 or 533-1706.

SAT/ACT testing

The Buffalo Soldier Education Center administers the Scholastic Aptitude Test and the American College Testing Assessment. These tests are available to active duty and Reserve component personnel only.

The SAT and ACT scores are used as a college admission requirement and for student placement. For information, call the Education Center at 533-3010/2255.

MTMC effort recycles tanks for U.S. Army Europe operations

USTCNS release

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands — The U.S. Army in Europe is getting a sharper edge thanks to the Military Traffic Management Command.

Every Abrams M1A1 tank in Europe will be returned to depots in the United States for rebuilding.

Operations in the Balkans and training in Germany have resulted in much higher than normal mileage for tanks in Europe, according to the U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office.

The Abrams Integrated Management program will completely rebuild every Abrams tank in the U.S. Army Europe over the next three years — six battalions of tanks.

MTMC's 598th Transportation Group is already starting to move the tanks.

The 838th Transportation Battalion, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, received the first set of 40 M1A1 tanks in Antwerp, Belgium in early September.

Many tanks were deadlined and had to be unloaded from railcars with a mobile crane and loaded on the Faust.

More tanks were moved from the port of Rotterdam a week later. Here, four trains arrived from Combat Equipment Group-Europe sites in Vriezenveen, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. They carried a total load of 56 M1A1 tanks — 75 percent of which were not operational

The equipment was loaded on the Fidelio.

“This was truly a combined effort,” said Bart Fiegel, terminal manager. “We’d especially like to thank American Roll-on Roll-off Carriers for arranging for the vessel to call Rotterdam so we could conduct ro-ro operations at Rotterdam — something we don’t usually do.”

The Abram Integrated Management program is the Army’s choice for long term maintenance of the armored force through the year 2025.

Originally slated to take six years to completely rebuild the six battalions of tanks, the increase in operations and the need to ensure readiness prompted the command in Europe to request a three-year rebuild program.

Once in the United States, the Abrams tanks will be extensively refurbished. The tanks will be completely disassembled at the Anniston Army Depot, Anniston, Ala.

The rework will include sending the vehicles’ hull, turret, engine and other parts to the tank production plant in Lima, Ohio. The plant has the capability to rebuild eight to twelve tanks per month.

MTMC will then send rebuilt tanks to Europe to be swapped on a one-to-one basis with existing tanks. The first shipment of rebuilt tanks is scheduled to arrive in Europe by fall.

(Editor’s note: Information for this article came from the Military Traffic Management Command Public Affairs Office.)

Traffic from Page 1

One exception to the “No Left Turn” rule will be for eastbound traffic on Hatfield wanting to turn left into the parking lot next to Sisler Hall and the Equipment Issue facility. The existing center left turn lane will be left in place.

“The number one concern on our roads here is safety,” Boardman said. “Everyone driving on post along Hatfield between Arizona and Irwin should exercise extreme caution,” Boardman added.

Safety personnel, working together with representatives from the Directorate

of Installation Support, examined several suggestions to resolve the safety issues involved.

These included widening of Hatfield, changing Hatfield to a two-lane street with a center turning lane, and installing traffic lights with a left turn indicator. These ideas were tabled as being too expensive to accomplish in the near future.

Recommended alternate routes

Hatfield basically runs east to west, starting at the East Gate and ending Smith

Ave. between the Main Chapel and Fire Station No. 1. The majority of troop units and the academic facilities for the Military Intelligence School are located on the north side of Hatfield.

On the south side of Hatfield are on-post housing areas for approximately 400 families, the Commissary and the Post Exchange complex.

The recommendation for people working on the north side of Hatfield who want to use Hatfield to exit the fort through the East Gate is that they use Cushing Street

to Arizona (in front of Greely Hall), turn right onto Arizona and proceed to Hunt Ave. (the traffic light in front of EPG). Turn right onto Hunt and proceed past Chaffee parade field to the traffic light at Hunt and Hatfield.

Drivers on the north side of Hatfield who need to go to the Commissary, PX complex or the housing areas on the south side of Hatfield should take Cushing to Arizona and turn left on Arizona to the traffic light at Hatfield. From there they can proceed to their desired destination.

School News

Fort students ‘exhibit’ artistic, scholastic talents

Smith Middle School

Nancy Murphy’s sixth grade **art classes earned blue ribbons** at the Cochise County Fair for their awesome bird drawings. Students added feathers for some fun creativity to the posters.

The sixth grade students were **studying Impressionism and Pointillism**. Their projects are based on the works of Vincent Van Gogh and Georges Seurat.

The seventh and eighth grade classes **made non-objective/non-representational paintings** in the style of Wassily Kandisky. They also wrote short stories to go with their version of the famous painting Edward Munch’s “The Scream.” Murphy is extremely proud of all the students’ efforts.

The art room is still in need of old magazines for art projects and old shirts for smocks. Donations are appreciated.

Joseph Patalsky’s seventh grade classes pondered the question, **“Who really discovered America?”** They may never know the answer, but the students of Patalsky’s fourth period class now know how controversial this historical issue is.

They participated in a simulation of a meeting of early explorers on a panel show with modern TV-show-like trappings.

The explorers, nine in all ranging from Hoei-Shin in 495 to Columbus around 1500, tried to convince the stu-

dio audience that they discovered America.

Students dressed up and role-played famous explorers, and two aliens also made a surprise visit to lay claim to the title. Inquisitors in the audience asked the explorers questions. At the end of the show, the audience voted as to whom they thought was the true discoverer. They did an outstanding job and had fun.

Students now understand the impact these explorers had on North American history.

Role players were: Hoei-Shin, Joel Marbut; Brendan the Bold, Tim Boss; Prince Madoc, Megan Ballard; Bjarni Herjulfsson, Kendra Martin; Leif Ericsson, Mary Houck; Christopher Columbus, Chris Boesen; Chief Howling Wind, Brianne Boardman; Alien #1, Steve Nieto; Alien #2, Nicki Andersen; and the master of ceremonies was played by Cornelius Daniel.

Inquisitors were: Nick Cunningham, Autumn Cartwright, Rene Romine, Cassi Anderson, Karen Cook, Amanda Hazelmyer, Yvonne Ramirez and Daniel O’Keefe.

Janis Dodson’s eighth grade **science classes enjoyed eating cell project** after cell project after cell project...60 edible ones in all. Students and parents put in a lot of hard work. Now that the students know the basics of cells, they are learning to focus microscopes so they can observe and study real cells.

On Sept. 22 Student Council held its first successful

event — **the Welcome Back Dance**. Andy Robinson, Brittany Bitzer, Bryce McDaniel, India Burns and Trey Palmer caught the eyes of the judges and were winners in the dance contest.

The **Student Council is busy planning activities** for October. So far it is working on a Pep Rally, Spirit Week, Pumpkingrams and a Harvest Dance. Watch for flyers and listen to announcements as more information on these activities goes out to all students.

Col. Johnston Elementary School

In spite of the weather first grade classes rose to the challenge and visited the “Pumpkin Patch” and “Critter Farm” in Wilcox earlier this week. This **field trip** was the “kick-off” event for their Fall Harvest Theme.

Students of the Week are: Luke Mintavon, Morgan Jump, Denise, Cowherd, Josep Jones, Kyle Mitchell, Chad Davis, Akera King, Sheniqua Chambers, Andrea Bell, Tasha Saffo, Kimberly Wilson, Adrienne DeLaRosa and Katie Marrs.

Don’t forget the **Craft Fair** on Nov. 4. Vendors will be selling homemade products just in time for Christmas.

This month’s theme is Safety and Drug Awareness. We are hoping a hot air balloon launch will go off without a hitch on Oct. 20 as the Opening Act for Red Ribbon Week. It is planned for 8:15 a.m. on the south playground.

DoD schools to examine students’ standardized tests

*By Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — DoD schools officials are looking closely at the standardized tests military children take.

“Across the nation we’ve had something of a test frenzy. Testing and accountability are real hot,” said Janet Rope, chief of the new Office of System Accountability for DoD schools.

“The Department of Defense schools wanted to make sure that we stayed on the cutting edge of what’s going on across the United States and to make sure that we have the right tests in place.”

Many states have placed high stakes, such as graduation eligibility and promotion to the next grade, on test scores, Rope said.

The Department of Defense Education Activity hasn’t gone that far yet, because officials want to make sure that would be the best thing for students.

The Office of System Accountability will review DoDEA’s testing procedures and make recommendations.

“We want to take a good look at the type of tests we’re using and make sure that they are the right kinds of tests to give us an accurate measure of how our kids are doing,” Rope said.

“We want to look at other options in the world of testing.”

Rope said she believes the tests students take can impact their overall educational achievement.

“We’re hoping that, with the right kind of assessments in place, students will be motivated to achieve at higher levels and even be inspired to work harder on their school work,” she said.

If parents and teachers have the most accurate information about students’ abilities and progress, they can determine how best to help the students, she explained.

Beyond testing, Rope said, her office will look at other ways students’ progress is evaluated. “We want to make sure that students have lots of different ways that they can demonstrate what they know and what they’re able to do,” she said.

“It might be a written test; it might be a performance assessment; it might be documentation that they’re keeping a portfolio. There’s a variety of ways that students can demonstrate that they’re able to do something.”

For more information on the Department of Defense Education Activity or the Office of System Accountability, visit their Internet homepage at <http://www.odedodea.edu/>.

Website provides info to parents

*By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Todaysmilitary.com became the latest arrow in the quiver aimed at getting recruits in the military when the website went live Aug. 14.

The website is an outgrowth of the recent “Yahoo! Fantasy Careers in Today’s Military” contest. The fantasy career website was “a success by any measure,” said Cmdr. Yvette Brown-Wahler, DoD director for recruiting plans.

“Over 3,300 essays were submitted to the services through Yahoo! Careers,” she said. “40 percent of the contestants requested additional information from the respective service regarding career opportunities.”

The program showed that the Internet is the medium to reach people, she said.

Brown-Wahler said the todaysmilitary.com is an “adult influencer website” — meaning it is aimed at parents, teachers, veterans, coaches, scoutmasters, ministers or any adult young men and women go to for career advice.

The site gives visitors information

they may need about the military. Many parents, for instance, are not aware of the opportunities available in the military.

“We have eight ways to earn college degrees. We have more than 150 military occupations. But many parents and other adult influencers have no idea we offer so much,” she said.

One reason they often have no idea is that fewer people have firsthand experience with the military since the draft ended in 1973, and the military has been shrinking in size for more than 10 years. Todaysmilitary.com is a one-stop information source.

“There [is a] general overall discussion of the military and links to the services’ home pages,” she said. “The services are working on their websites to make them easier to navigate,” Brown-Wahler said.

DoD officials said the website cost about \$13 million to \$14 million to set up and advertise. Print advertisements will begin in October and television ads start in January, Brown-Wahler said. BATES Worldwide is the contractor for the program.

Have we got news for you!

Check out *The Fort Huachuca Scout* on the Internet.
Click on
<http://huachuca-www.army.mil/PAO/1Scout.htm>

Frequent flyer miles earned on official travel not for personal use

By Mike Wentik
AMC Ethics Counselor

In July 1997, I issued ETHICS ADVISORY #97-02 because of a Mike Causey column in *The Washington Post* that reported a Merit Systems Protection Board case that upheld a 30-day suspension of an employee who used his official frequent flyer miles for personal travel.

In May 1999, I issued ETHICS ADVISORY #99-02 to explain some important aspects of the Secretary of the Army’s new travel policy issued on April 8, 1999.

Included in that was his new direction on the use of FFM’s earned by Army employees while on official travel.

Now, in the Sept. 28 edition of *USA Today*, there is a report of a defense official working at Fort Gordon, who is accused of using over \$4,000 worth of FFM’s earned while on official travel, for personal travel.

Although the report says that the Department of Justice has declined to prosecute, I suggest that the very fact that the matter was referred to DoJ for prosecution, demonstrates the importance of following the rules. The matter has been turned over to the employee’s supervisor.

Hence, I figure that it’s time for an update to ensure that there are no memory lapses concerning the FFM rules.

FFM’s earned while traveling on official business belong to the Government, and we may not use them for our personal travel, to include travel while on permissive TDY. We may not give them away to a charity.

FFM accounts for official travel should be kept separate from personal travel accounts. If we commingle our official and personal FFM’s in a single account, all FFM’s within the account are considered to belong to the government absent a clear accounting to the contrary — so, keep records.

How do we use the FFM’s earned while on official travel? We use them to reduce the cost of future official travel.

Can we use the official FFM’s to upgrade our class of travel? Maybe, but probably not. Here are the rules with respect to upgrades:

— We may never use official FFM’s to upgrade to first-class, unless we are otherwise authorized to fly first-class in accordance with the JTR/JFTR and the SECARMY 9 Apr 99 travel policy.

First-class travel requires Secretary of the Army approval. Here is an important point: if there are only two classes on a flight (as many (most?) flights seem to be today), the upper class is always considered to be first-class, whatever the airline might call it — even if the airline calls it “business-class.”

— We might be able to upgrade to premium-class (less than first-class) travel, but the SECARMY policy is more restrictive than the other services, and permits such an upgrade only if:

a.) The traveler is authorized to fly premium-class (less than first-class) under the criteria set out by the JTR/JFTR and the SECARMY 9 Apr 99 policy; or

b.) The airline does not permit the use of the FFM’s for anything other than an upgrade; or

— The traveler does not have enough FFM’s for a ticket or other reduction in travel costs, but absent a redemption for an upgrade, the FFM’s will expire and go unused. Otherwise, the traveler is expected to let the FFM’s accrue until there are enough FFM’s to apply to future travel requirements.

Reenlistments

The following soldiers reenlisted in August 2000.

112th Military Intelligence Brigade
Headquarters, 306th MI Bn.
Spc. Cynthia Lorraine Bass
Staff Sgt. Raymond Edwin Foster
Company A, 306th MI Bn.
Spc. Tonnika Alicia Singletary
Staff Sgt. Karl Meyer Balandovich
Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Lee Taylor Jr.
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Herber
Staff Sgt. Roho Dwayne French
Sgt. 1st Class Janet Tullis
Spc. Aaron Alexander Mundras
Staff Sgt. Cliff Ashley West
NCO Academy
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Alan Sizer
Staff Sgt. Carlos Alberto CanalesRamirez

HHD, 504th Signal Bn.
Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Lyn Lumberry
19th Signal Company, 504th Signal Bn.
Sgt. George John Wokaly
Spc. Nathan Allen Lewis
Staff Sgt. David Anthony Webb
Spc. Randy Karl Jeter
69th Signal Company, 504th Signal Bn.
Spc. Luther James Windley III
Spc. Shawn Richardson
Company D, 40th Signal Bn.
Spc. Tobias Joseph Morrison
Sgt. 1st Class Efrom Zembalist Gex
Company A, 40th Signal Bn.
Sgt. Craig Lamont Fisher

11th Signal Brigade
HHC, 86th Signal Bn.
Spc. Cattreena Bernadette Stewart
Staff Sgt. James Glen Pinson
Company A, 86th Signal Bn.
Spc. John Jason Seysock
Company D, 86th Signal Bn.
Spc. Opal El
Spc. James Jayson Chatman
Spc. Carlos Manuel Dasilva
Spc. Albert Virgil Phillips
269th Signal Company, 86th Signal Bn.
Sgt. John Robert Church

111th Military Intelligence Brigade
Company B, 305th MI Bn.
Sgt. 1st Class Ralph David Harris
Company D, 309th MI Bn.
Staff Sgt. Franklin Maynor Jr.
Company E, 309th MI Bn.
Staff Sgt. John Joseph Fedor

18th Military Police Detachment
Spc. Gabriel Negrete
Staff Sgt. Otis Christopher Meadows

USAYPG
Staff Sgt. James John Menne

There’s no place like home — for workplace safety

By Catherine R. Holmes
American Forces Press Service

DALLAS — People work at home for a variety of reasons. Some may telecommute to avoid a long drive. Others may work part-time before returning to the office after an illness or pregnancy.

Whatever the reason, home-based work is a growing part of the employment scene — and it’s here to stay.

Many home-based workers don’t think about workplace safety, yet the concerns that face employees at “regular” offices and businesses are just as real in the home.

Although there are no current government regulations regarding home-based workplace safety, a few precautions can make the home office safer.

The explosion of computers in the workplace is probably the No. 1 reason for the growth of home-based offices. Following a few simple guidelines can keep the computer from becoming a source of injury or illness.

mize the risk of injury over time by encouraging good posture and back position. In addition, their stability decreases the likelihood of injury from falling over backward.

A good computer chair has a lumbar support, adjustable armrests, a slightly inclined backrest, a height-adjustable seat, and a high backrest or headrest. Also, be sure the chair fits you — try it before you buy it.

— Third, work in an area with proper lighting — bright enough to read your accompanying documents, but not more than 10 times brighter than the monitor. (Some researchers recommend no more than three times brighter.) A void glare on the screen and accompanying documents; if necessary, add a glare filter to the monitor. If possible, work with at least some natural light, which many people find decreases eyestrain.

Be sure your monitor is in good shape. It may be time for a replacement if it flickers or has poor resolution.

Set up your office.

It’s tempting to do the minimum when working from home — put the computer on a dinette table and pull up a chair.

Unfortunately, if your job requires long hours in front of the computer, this can become a recipe for injury. If your main home-based work involves extensive computer use, it pays to organize your workspace to maximize comfort and efficiency.

— First of all, place your computer on a standard-height desk or workstation, preferably one that’s recommended for computers. These can be easily found at any office products store.

— Next, choose a standard, five-legged office chair. These chairs mini-

Use good work habits.

Now that your work area is set up properly, there are numerous ways to protect yourself from computer-related injury or illness. Paying attention to your body can head off problems from the start.

— First, let’s tackle eyestrain, one of the most common computer-related ailments. Place the monitor and source documents so they are about the same distance from your eyes.

Place monitors and documents so they are perpendicular to your line of sight to avoid character distortion.

Rest the muscles of your eyes by oc-

Info lines provide non-emergency advice

TRICARE release

TRICARE regions have toll-free TRICARE Health Care Information Lines that provide medical advice and assistance for non-emergency situations that may be encountered — saving the beneficiary both time and money.

When an HCIL is contacted, the caller has the option to either listen to health topics from the audio-health library or speak to a nurse. The HCILs provide medical information service 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

The TRICARE HCIL for Region 7/8 (Central) is 1-888-887-4111. This region covers Arizona (except Yuma); Colorado, Idaho (except Northern Idaho); Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri (except St. Louis), Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas (El Paso area only), Utah and Wyoming.

Wilderness crew plus use fees equals trail improvements over 52 miles in Chiricahua

USDA Forest Service release

DOUGLAS, Ariz. — They hike to work rather than drive. They might travel several miles with heavy equipment and packs before starting their job. They might see a black bear or bobcat before they see another person. They are the Wilderness and Trail Crew of the Douglas Ranger District.

Thanks to money collected under the recreation use fee demonstration program, the temporary trail crew will be funded to recondition trails into October.

Since April 23, Adrian Cockerell, wilderness trail crew leader, estimates that he and sometimes as few as one other crew member reconditioned approximately 52 miles of trails in the Chiricahua Mountains.

This translates into removal of more than 2,000 downed trees, 200 added water bars to slow erosion, 27 miles of reconditioning “tread” over which hikers walk, and pruning of seasonal overgrowth on trails.

For hikers, this means an enhanced and safer passage through the most popular areas of the Chiricahua wilderness. Use fees collected on the Coronado National Forest provide the funding for much of this work.

Cockerell and the wilderness crew appreciate the hikers’ enthusiastic response to the reconditioned trails. Public support through fee payment allows work to continue.

To provide a more primitive outdoor experience motorized and mechanized equipment is not permitted in wilderness areas, crew members use crosscut saws, shovels and other hand tools for their labor intensive work. Crosscut saws require two physically fit users.

In July, 10 volunteers from the Sierra Club made their annual summer visit to the Chiricahua Mountains to assist the wilderness crew with trail restoration projects. Many of the volunteers are repeat visitors from other states. According to Louie Pope, supervisory forester, the Sierra Club members accomplish a great deal of physically demanding trail work for public benefit during their week long visit.

Fully or partly reconditioned trails include: Burro, Crest, Fly’s Peak, Greenhouse, Snowshed and South Fork. For easy parking, Snowshed trailhead was moved to Forest Road 42A (turn west immediately after passing the



Photo by Joe Fournier

Douglas Ranger District Wilderness Trail Crewmembers Alan Landua (left) and Adrian Cockrell saw a downed tree using a two-man crosscut saw. The use of motorized or mechanized equipment such as chainsaws is not permitted in wilderness areas.

Southwestern Research Station). Two miles of new trail made trailhead relocation possible.

Cooler temperatures and waning monsoon make September and October ideal months to visit the Chiricahua Mountains. Two loops in Cave Creek Canyon on the east side of the mountain range offer challenging hikes on reconditioned trails.

One loop begins at the trailhead off Forest Road 42 (Portal Road). Hike Basin Trail to Herb Martyr Campground. Then, follow Forest Road 42A to Forest Road 42

to the trailhead. This seven-mile loop over rugged terrain can take a full day.

The second loop, about eight miles long, begins at the parking lot in Herb Martyr Campground. Head south on Basin Trail. At the intersection with Snowshed Trail, travel east and north on Forest Road 42 and head west. At the junction with Forest Road 42A, access and follow that road back to Herb Martyr Campground.

For trail information, call the Douglas Ranger District at (520) 364-3468.

Common radios providing soldiers link to each other

By Sgt. 1st Class Connie E. Dickey
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers can now use common hand-held radios to talk to each other in the field without enemy forces knowing the U.S. military is near.

By putting together a commercial off-the-shelf intercom package, the U.S. Army’s Soldier and Biological Chemical Command’s Product Manager-Enhanced Soldier Systems at Fort Belvoir, Va., is making it possible for soldiers to talk to each other as far as 700 meters apart without compromising their position. SBCCOM is in Natick, Mass.

“In situations where it is dark, or the terrain includes obstructions, or the squad has to spread out to achieve its objective, the Soldier Intercom can tie the squad together to improve their coordination and reduce reaction time, possibly saving lives in the process,” said David L. Nelson, deputy product manager-enhanced soldier

systems.

Squads and teams will benefit the most from the system, Nelson said. “They are the lowest level core group of warriors who operate with synergy to accomplish a specific task. The more cohesive they are, the more effective they are. History is replete with examples of small units accomplishing incredible tasks.”

The system, which weighs less than 20 ounces, consists of a receiver/transmitter, rechargeable AA battery pack and headset with boom microphone. Nelson said the speaker rests just over the left ear and the volume is adjustable so that a person standing even a few feet away cannot hear it. “The boom microphone is of the noise canceling type and allows for whispering. The radio is kept in an olive drab nylon case which prevents any light emissions and the radio does not beep, click or squelch when it is activated.”

The project for improving communi-

cations among soldiers in the field was approved in 1995 under the Soldier Enhancement Program, Nelson said. The SEP is an acquisition process established by Congress in 1989 for evaluating commercial off the shelf items and getting them in the hands of soldiers in three years or less.

Nelson explained the system is not for communicating up and down the chain of command, “it is for horizontal communications,” and cautioned that any time a radio is activated it gives off electronic emissions that increase the chances of detection.

However, the Soldier Intercom was tested by the 5th Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment in Panama in the fall of 1997 and has been used in the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 82nd Airborne Division since November 1998.

Even though anyone can submit a SEP proposal, Nelson said the preference of the

TRADOC Systems Manager-Soldier at Fort Benning, Ga., is to “let the proposals come from soldiers because they above all others know what can work for them.”

By going for the commercial off the shelf items, Nelson said there are generally no development costs because market investigations identify potential existing solutions.

“We buy samples of those that appear to have most of the performance characteristics required by the user proponent (in this case the Infantry School) and evaluate them in tests. In some cases not all requirements are met and we have to make a best value choice,” Nelson said. The system is being fielded to the 101st Air Assault, 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division through fiscal year 99, with the 10th Mountain Division, 2nd Infantry Division and the 25th Infantry Division due to receive the system through fiscal year 00.

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casionally focusing on a distant object. When using a laptop, look into the distance more frequently. Standard laptop monitors are attached to the keyboard — not necessarily the best placement for the comfort of your eyes.

If you wear glasses, consider getting full-frame reading glasses prescribed for a working distance of 20 to 30 inches. These will allow you to place the monitor correctly and see well without stressing your posture.

Don’t let work be a pain.

Back and neck injuries and illnesses comprise another common set of problems from computer work.

Long hours at the keyboard can contribute to a variety of back and neck ailments.

Fortunately, several simple steps can be taken to reduce the likelihood of developing these problems.

— Choose a properly constructed office chair with good back and arm support. Change your body position periodically throughout the day.

Use a document stand to reduce the amount of neck twisting or bending forward if typing from a source document.

Position your keyboard directly in front of you and at approximately elbow height. This should enable you to type with straight wrists.

If this is not possible with the keyboard atop the work surface, use an adjustable-height keyboard tray.

— Rearrange the work area to avoid excess bending or stooping. Try to re-

lax. Many injuries and painful episodes arise from continuously tensing neck and shoulder muscles while working.

Home office workers often become absorbed in work and fail to take occasional breaks because they are alone most of the time.

Get up and walk around. In fact, consider increasing the exercise you get, because there seems to be a strong relationship between poor physical condition and workplace injury.

— Find a posture that’s good for you. Although your work habits can contribute to back and shoulder pain, good posture is not a simple matter of finding the “right” position in which to sit.

Even “poor” postures can prove comfortable if you don’t remain in them for

extended periods of time.

The last main area of illness and injury common to computer users is repetitive motion illnesses and cumulative trauma disorders. One of the most prevalent is carpal tunnel syndrome, which affects the hands.

Repetitive, long-term keyboard use can inflame tendons that pinch and ultimately damage nerves running through the wrist bones to the hands.

Although people have been using typewriters for over 100 years, the increasing use of computers — with their faster keyboarding speed — has led to a rise in repetitive motion illnesses.

(Editor’s note: Catherine R. Holmes is the Army and Air Force Exchange Service occupational health manager.)